

Appl. No.  
Amdt. dated May 10, 2006  
Preliminary Amendment

PATENT

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

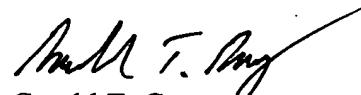
Claims 1-41 are pending. Claim 42 has been canceled, and claims 3, 5-7, 12-15, 17-23, 27-29 and 41 have been amended herein in order to change the dependencies, remove multiple dependencies and thus reduce the total number of claims fees payable. The claims as amended herein reflect changes to the claims after any PCT Article 34 amendments. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added herein.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,



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